

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 21

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN  
ADMINISTRATOR TO PRESS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSTATE  
COMPACT ON PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY TO MANDATE  
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT EXCHANGE AND FILING AND RULING ON  
APPLICATIONS FOR ADOPTION WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF RECEIPT.

WHEREAS, New Mexico entered the Interstate Compact on  
Placement of Children some fifteen years ago; and

WHEREAS, procedures to decrease the time required for  
processing an out-of-state adoption are readily available; and

WHEREAS, the interstate compact is a legal document  
binding on the state; and

WHEREAS, all states and jurisdictions in the United States  
have adopted and signed on to the Interstate Compact on  
Placement of Children; and

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underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, an interstate commission consisting of appointees  
2 from each of the states and other jurisdictions already exists;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, a compact administrator resides in the child  
5 protective services agency of each state or jurisdiction; and

6           WHEREAS, interstate child placement is apt to be  
7 heartbreakingly slow for both parents and children; and

8           WHEREAS, at present, documents are accepted only on paper  
9 and only in one jurisdiction at a time; and

10          WHEREAS, rulings as to filings for interstate adoption are  
11 sometimes not ruled upon for months;

12          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Interstate Compact on Placement of  
14 Children administrator in the child protective services agency  
15 be requested to advocate for changes to upgrade filings to  
16 electronic documents and to authorize simultaneous filings in  
17 several jurisdictions; and

18          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interstate Compact on  
19 Placement of Children administrator in the child protective  
20 services agency be asked to advocate with other state  
21 administrators to mandate that a ruling on an interstate child  
22 placement be issued within twenty-four hours of receipt; and

23          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the secretary of the children, youth and  
25 families department.

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